

**We claim:**

1. A process for the preparation of substituted dihydropyrimidinones using polyaniline salts as reusable catalysts, which comprises reacting an aldehyde, a  $\beta$ -keto ester and urea/thiourea in the presence of a polyaniline salt catalyst and separating the substituted dihydropyrimidinone obtained thereby.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the aldehyde is selected from the group consisting of Benzaldehyde, 4-Methoxybenzaldehyde, 4-Chlorobenzaldehyde, 4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde, 4-Methyl benzaldehyde, 4-(Dimethylamino) benzaldehyde, 4-Nitrobenzaldehyde, 4-(Phenoxy) benzaldehyde,  $\beta$ -Naphthal, Cinnamaldehyde, Furfuraldehyde and Heptaldehyde.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the  $\beta$ - keto ester is selected from the group consisting of methyl acetoacetate and ethyl acetoacetate.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyaniline salt catalyst is selected from the group consisting of polyaniline-sulfate, polyaniline-hydrochloride, polyaniline-perchlorate, polyaniline-phosphate, polyaniline-nitrate, polyaniline-aluminum chloride, polyaniline-ferric chloride, polyaniline-bismuth chloride, polyaniline-p-toluene sulfonate, and polyaniline-sulfosalicylate system.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature in the range of 25 to 65 °C.
6. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out for a period of 2 to 6 hrs.
7. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst is used in an amount of 1 to 10 wt% with respect to aldehyde.
8. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran.
9. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the substituted dihydropyrimidinones are separated by filtration.
10. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst is recycled.